WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus for forming images on a recording medium, comprising:

a movable member having flexibility;

a detection section for detecting temperature of the movable member directly or indirectly;

a storage section for storing the temperature detected by the detection section when the apparatus is powered off; and

a control section for changing a duration of time during which the movable member is in a preparatory operation corresponding to the detected temperature read from the storage section when the apparatus is powered on.

2. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control section puts the movable member in a preparatory operation for first predefined time when the detected temperature read from the storage section is below a specified temperature, and puts the movable member in a preparatory operation for second predefined time that is longer than the first predefined time when the detected temperature is equal to or above the specified temperature.

3. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the control section puts the movable member in a preparatory operation for third predefined time that is

longer than the second predefined time when the detected temperature does not exist in the storage section.

4. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control section further changes a duration of time during which the movable member is put in a preparatory operation according to a lapse of time from power-off to repower-on of the apparatus.

5. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein the lapse of time is obtained from a clock backed up with a battery by the control section.

6. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the detection section detects the temperature of the movable member indirectly from an inside temperature of the apparatus.

7. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the detection section detects the temperature of the movable member indirectly from an image printing mode.

8. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the detection section detects the temperature of the image forming apparatus indirectly from a temperature of a member other than the movable member.

9. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the movable member is an endless belt hung over at least two rollers.

10. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 9, wherein the endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

11. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 9, wherein the endless belt is a fixing belt.

12. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the movable member is an electrically-charging member.

13. A method for controlling an image forming apparatus which includes a movable member having flexibility, comprising:

a step 1 for detecting a temperature of the movable member directly or indirectly when the image forming apparatus is powered off; and

a step 2 for changing a duration of time during which the movable member is put in a preparatory operation when the image forming apparatus is powered on according to the temperature detected in the step 1.

14. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein in the step 2, the movable member is put in a preparatory operation for first predefined time when the detected temperature is below a specified temperature, and the movable member is put in a preparatory operation for second predefined time that is longer than the first predefined

time when the detected temperature is equal to or above the specified temperature.

15. The method as defined in Claim 14, wherein

the step 1 further includes a step for storing data relating to the detected temperature in a storage section, and

in the step 2, the movable member is put in a preparatory operation for third predefined time that is longer than the second predefined time when the data does not exist in the storage section.

16. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein further in the step 2, a duration of time during which the movable member is put in a preparatory operation is changed corresponding to a lapse of time from power-off to repower-on of the image forming apparatus.

17. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the movable member is an endless belt hung over at least two rollers.

18. The method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

19. The method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the endless belt is a fixing belt.

20. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the movable member is an electrically-charging member.